

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING
FILE SYSTEM ACCESS TO A DISK ARRAY**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A data storage system (201) includes file system processes (308),
5 array controller processes (300), and one or more data storage devices (203)
accessed through the array controller processes. Certain file system access
operations are diverted from the file system processes (308) so that the
array controller processes (300) can directly perform the requested access
operation. The array controller processes (300) then communicate with the
10 file system processes (308) so that the file system processes may update the
file system data management arrangement as appropriate. In this way, the
hierarchical file system management is maintained while the storage media
may be accessed directly through the array controller processes (300) in
response to a file system access operation request.